



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Public Instruction  
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

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\*\*\***NEWS RELEASE**\*\*\*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Library systems share \$15.5 million in state aid

MADISON—State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster announced that Wisconsin's 17 federated public library systems will receive \$15.5 million in state aid during 2007 to support cooperative local, regional, and state efforts to share library resources and improve public library service statewide.

The Department of Public Instruction recently sent the first of two aid payments for public library system operations, which will total \$15,521,200 for 2007. Library systems assure that all Wisconsin residents have access to library services and help the state's 388 independent public libraries provide higher levels of service while avoiding unnecessary service duplication.

"By ensuring that all residents have access to the wide range of resources contained in libraries throughout the state, public library systems serve as a key building block in the foundation of our democratic society," Burmaster said.

Aid for 2007 represents a 4 percent increase over the 2006 state aid allocation. State aid is the primary state program supporting public library service statewide. The department's 2007-09 state budget includes a request to provide library system aid at the statutory index of 13 percent. Library systems currently receive aid at an 8 percent index. Recent library statistics for 2005 reported increases in several areas of library usage, including a 13 percent one-year increase in interlibrary loans, a service coordinated through library systems.

"Library systems help our public libraries offer high-quality services to meet Wisconsin citizens' library needs," Burmaster said. "However, public libraries have been providing increased services for a number of years with little to no growth in staffing levels, a condition that we cannot expect to continue indefinitely."

(more)

Each system's regional board develops plans for using state aid to meet system needs. Across the state, library system services include

- ensuring that system residents have complete access to all public libraries within the system area. State residents made 33.1 million visits to public libraries and checked out nearly 57.9 million items last year.
- coordinating the loan of library materials among participating libraries to meet user needs. Annually, 5.5 million items are sent from one public library to another library in response to users' requests and are delivered by system-supported delivery networks.
- providing training and continuing education for local library staff to help them provide the best possible service to their communities.
- coordinating cooperative library technology projects. More than 85 percent of the state's public libraries now participate in shared computer systems, and all libraries provide public access to computers with Internet connections.

"Public libraries and library systems provide free access to knowledge, information, and the diversity of ideas that is essential to our democratic society. They serve as a primary information source for small businesses, job seekers, and personal investors. They are a valuable part of each community and make a tremendous contribution to quality of life and economic development in Wisconsin," Burmaster said.

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**NOTE:** The list of aid payments to the state's 17 public library systems follows. This news release is available electronically at < [http://www.dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2006\\_159.pdf](http://www.dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2006_159.pdf) >.

# 2007 State Aid to Public Library Systems

<b>System</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Arrowhead Library System ..... <i>Rock County</i>	\$453,449
Eastern Shores Library System ..... <i>Ozaukee and Sheboygan counties</i>	\$598,125
Indianhead Federated Library System ..... <i>Barron, Chippewa, Dunn, Eau Claire, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, Price, Rusk, and St. Croix counties</i>	\$1,163,193
Kenosha County Library System.....	\$412,169
Lakeshores Library System..... <i>Racine and Walworth counties</i>	\$659,298
Manitowoc-Calumet County Federated Library System..... <i>Calumet and Manitowoc counties</i>	\$322,676
Mid-Wisconsin Federated Library System..... <i>Dodge, Jefferson, and Washington counties</i>	\$779,953
Milwaukee County Federated Library System .....	\$2,767,604
Nicolet Federated Library System..... <i>Brown, Door, Florence, Kewaunee, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, and Shawano counties</i>	\$1,105,606
Northern Waters Library Service .....	\$547,012
<i>Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Sawyer, Vilas, and Washburn counties</i>	
Outagamie-Waupaca Library System .....	\$628,075
<i>Outagamie and Waupaca counties</i>	
South Central Library System .....	\$2,126,996
<i>Adams, Columbia, Dane, Green, Portage, Sauk, and Wood counties</i>	
Southwest Wisconsin Library System .....	\$375,638
<i>Crawford, Grant, Iowa, Lafayette, and Richland counties</i>	
Waukesha County Federated Library System.....	\$991,080
Winding Rivers Library System .....	\$793,683
<i>Buffalo, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse, Monroe, Trempealeau, and Vernon counties</i>	
Winnefox Federated Library System.....	\$915,866
<i>Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, Waushara, and Winnebago counties</i>	
Wisconsin Valley Library Service.....	\$880,777
<i>Clark, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, and Taylor counties</i>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$15,521,200</b>